

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7020

April 4, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20460

The Honorable Denise Turner Roth  
Administrator  
U.S. General Services Administration  
1800 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Administrator McCarthy and Administrator Turner Roth:

I am writing today to share my concern about the progress made on consolidating the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) facilities in Las Vegas.

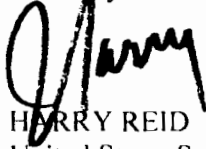
In the FY 2015 spending bill, Congress appropriated \$7.85 million to fund the initial design and engineering phase of a new, state-of-the-art facility. Currently, the EPA's Las Vegas operations are housed in two out-of-date facilities, one of which is on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. A cost-benefit analysis performed by the EPA estimated that the consolidation of these facilities at a new site would save the EPA \$15 million over 20 years.

Furthermore, the EPA's existing laboratory on UNLV's campus is 50 years old. The 580 EPA employees in Las Vegas need an up-to-date laboratory in order to maintain the quality of work expected of them. The EPA's lease with UNLV for the current laboratory expires in 2020, and the process to move out must begin in 2018 unless there is certainty that the EPA will have a new facility in Las Vegas. It is imperative that the EPA and General Services Administration (GSA) work with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to make progress on the new consolidated facility, beginning with completing the design and engineering work and identifying a realistic approach to paying for its construction. Furthermore, given the short term remaining on the current laboratory's lease, construction of the new facility must begin relatively soon to avoid a costly and unnecessary move of EPA's operations.

According to the EPA, an additional \$70.5 million is necessary to construct the building. It is possible, with OMB's approval, that the new facility could be built using a lease-to-build program with a willing party, which would avoid the need to appropriate all or most of the construction funds in a single fiscal year. I hope that the EPA and GSA, together with OMB, will consider this option.

Please continue to work with OMB to finalize a financing agreement for this project. If there is anything I can do to be of assistance, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,



HARRY REID  
United States Senator

cc: Director, Office of Management and Budget. Shaun Donovan